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2010 NOV 29 AH 11: 11

November 26, 2010

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Jeff S. Jordan Supervisory Attorney Complaints Examination & Legal Administration Office of the General Counsel **Federal Election Commission** Washington, D.C. 20463

MUR 6386 Re:

Deer Mr. Jordan:

Please accept the following response filed on behalf of Stephen Fincher for Congress ("Committee") and Phyllis Patterson, Treasurer (together with Committee, "Respondents"). Respondents received a Complaint filed with the Federal Election Commission ("Commission") dated October 6, 2010, but received by them on October 11, 2010. The Commission assigned number MUR 6386 to the Complaint, filed against Respondents by Herron for Congress ("Herron for Congress" or "Complainant"). Herron for Congress is the authorized campaign committee of Rey Herron, Mr. Fineher's unsuccessful Demogratic opponent for the U.S. House of Representatives for the 8th Cottanessional District of Tennesseo. Although the original response date for this matter was October 26, 2010, Respondents received two 15 day extensions from the Commission on October 13, 2010 and November 5, 2010 (Attachment A). This responso is submitted to your office within 30 days of receipt of those extensions, in accordance with 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a), and therefore constitutes a timely response. As discussed herein, the Commission need not give this matter further investigation or action and the Complaint should be immediately dismissed as it pertains to the Respondents.

Alleged Violations

In its Complaint, Horron for Compless alloges, in summery, that Stephen Fincher for Congress received an illegal corporate contribution from a bank because a bank loan obtained by the candidate failed to meet required conditions defined by the Federal Election Campaign Act (Act) and the regulations promulgated there under. 2 USC §441(b)(a). Herron for Congress also argues that failed to disclose the bank loan and its terms with the Commission.

Analysis

As demonstrated herein, the terms of the bank loan obtained by Mr. Fireher, the candidate, met all required conditions as defined by law and regulation. While all required reports were filed in good faith, a review of how the loan was reported to the Commission revealed inadvertent reporting errors and omissions that require the need for amended reports to be filed with the Commission. Those reports are being prepared and will be provided to you as soon as practicable.

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Under the Act and the regulations promulgated there under, a candidate or his or her committee may obtain a loan, including a line of credit, from a bank. On July 7, 2010, Stephen Fincher, the candidate, obtained a bank loan for campaign-related purposes from Gates Banking and Trust Co. of Gates, Tennessee in the amount of \$250,000.00 and with a rate of interest of 6.500% per year until paid in full. The Multipurpose Note and Security Agreement is included with this response for your review (Attachment B).

There is an secret that Mr. Fischer obtained this loan. As Warren Nunn, Chairman of Gates Banking and Trust Co. publicly stated: "We did advance Stephen a loan...Stephen's always handed his business satisfactorily, we've never had any problems. I wish we had more like him." The loan was reported to the Cammission on July 23, 2010 as an itemized receipt on Schedule A and as a loan on Schedule C. (Attachment C). The maturity date was November 30, 2010. The purpose of the loan was listed on the loan document as "business expense," with the business being the candidate's campaign-related purposes (as evidenced by the cashier's check made payable to the order of Stephen Fincher for Congress) (Attachment D).

When a candidate or his or her committee obtains a bank loan, specific canditions must be met for the loan to camply with the Act and the regulations passed gated them under. If a loan fails to meet any of these conditions, then a prohibited contribution from the lending institution results. These specific loses conditions are detailed at 11 CFR 100.82:

- (a) General provisions. A loan of money to a political committee or a candidate by a State bank, a federally chartered depository institution (including a national bank) or a depository institution whose deposits and accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration is not a contribution by the lending institution if such Isan is made in accordance with applicable banking laws and regulations and is made in the ordinary course of husiness. A loan will be desired to be made in the ordinary course of business if it:
 - (1) Bears the usual and castomary interest rate of the lending institution for the category of loan involved;
 - (Z) Is made on a basis that assures repayment:
 - (3) Is evidenced by a written instrument; and
 - (4) Is subject to a due date or amortization schedule.

¹ See 11 CFR 100.82(a).

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If a loan fails to meet any of these conditions, then a prohibited contribution from the lending institution results.² When one applies these conditions to the lean at insue, it is clear that all such conditions were met and thus no prohibited contribution from the lending institution resulted:

- (1) The loan bears the bank's usual and customary interest rate for the category of loan involved as required by 11 CFR 100.82(a)(1). The interest rate for the loan is 6.500%, which was 3.25% over New York Prime. This rate was the usual and customary interest rate for the lending institution for the category of loan. The rate was erronecusly but unintentionally reported to FEC consistantly at ".0000%". This administration oversight will be promptly possented on accounted reports to be filed with the Consussign.
- (2) The loan was made on a basis which assures repayment 11 CFR 106.82(a)(2). The Commission should determine that under the totality of the circumstances, the loan was made on a basis which assured payment. The loan is a signature loan that was crosscollateralized with other bank debt owed and accounts held by Mr. Fincher. Under 100 CFR 100.82(e)(1)(i), a loan may be secured using assets of the candidate or the committee, such as real estate, personal property, cash on deposit, certificates of deposit and stocks; the fair market value of the assets must, on the date of the loan, equal or exceed the amount of the loan and any acquier lines; sleft the committee must excure tisst the bank has established a perfected security interest in the collateral. Here, the specific debt serving as conlateral for this note was a 2010 crop production none and a 2009 kome mortgage form executed by Sipphen & Lynn Fingher Farms and Stephen & Lynn Fincher. respectively. A UCC Financing Statement for the 2010 crop production note, on file with the Tennesser Secretary of State, and the deed of trust on the Fincher home held by Gates Banking and Trust serves as evidence of the perfected security interest established by the bank in the collateral. (Attachment E). In addition, the bank also cross collateralized the loan with a deposit account held by the Firsthers jointly, on which the bank possessed a rightenf-offset. While the debt owned and assets held by the Finchers were jointly owned, the amount of the long was not greater than the considere's skepe of the property in accordance with 100 CFR 110.52(b)(4).3

It is worth also noting, that Commission spokeswomen Juzith Ingram publicly consensated when questioned about this particular loss that 1) the rules regarding bank loans and assets put up for those loans are broad and open to interpretation; 2) that "[t]he bank can make loans if the usual methods for making the loan and assuring repayment are made"; and 3) if a bank can argue that it would have made the loan to the candidate regardless of whether the person was in a political campaign, the rules permit the loan.⁴

² See 11 CFR 100.82(a).

In its Complaint, Herron for Congress questions information contained on two personal financial disclosure statements filed with the Clerk of the U.S. Hoose of Representatives by Mr. Fincher. The information contained on those statements is under review.

Mariann Martin, "Fincher's income reports questioned," Jackson Sun, August 28, 2010.

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The bank has publicly made this argument. Gates Banking and Trust Chairman Warren Nunn stated in a news report on September 24, 2010 that Mr. Fincher has been a longtime and "valued customer of our bank," demonstrating that the loan was based on Mr. Fincher's past business relationship with the institution and not because of Mr. Fincher's political candidacy.⁵

- (3) The lust is evidenced by a written instrument as required by 11 CFR 100.82(a)(3). As previously noted, the written loan instrument dated July 7, 2010 is enclosed for your review (Attachment B).
- (4) The loan is subject to a due date or amortization schedule as required by 11 CFR 100.82(a)(4). The loan carries a Maturity Date of November 30, 2010, as detailed on the enclosed written instrument dated July 7, 2010 enclosed for your review (Attachment B).

Reporting of the Bank Loan

If a candidate obtains a bank loan for campaign-related purposes, the committee must report the loan from the sandidate as a receipt on Schedule A and repayment of the loan to the candidate as a disbursement of Schedule B. 11 CFR 104.3(a)(3)(vii)(B) and (b)(2)(iii)(A) and 100.82(c). In addition, both the original loan and payments to reduce principal must be reported on Schedule C such reporting pariod. Id. The Committee need only list the candidate as the source of the loan an Schedule C, but the type of loan the candidate about a loan and than contributes the proceeds to the committee. 11 CFR 104.3(d)(4).

A review of how the Committee reported the loan demonstrated a need to file amended reports, which as previously noted will be filed with the Commission and copies of which will be provided to you as practicable. The loan was repaid in full by Mr. Fincher on November 17, 2010 and will be reported to the Commission accordingly on the next required filing.

Cenchanion

The Commission should dismiss the Complaint and find no reason to believe that a violation of the Act or the regulations premulgated there under has occurred by Steve Fincher for Congress or Phyllis Patterson, Treasurer, in her official capacity. The bank loan complied with all conditions set under law and regulation. All erroneous reports will be amended. The

⁵ Bertholomew Sullivan, "Bething U.S. Rep. Jahn Tannes Says Stephen Fincher Neads to 'Come Clean' on Mysterious Loan," Commercial Appeal, September 24, 2010.

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loan has been repaid in full with interest prior to its maturity date. With respect to Ms. Patterson's personal capacity, she did not knowingly or willfully violate the Act or intentionally deprive herself of the operative facts giving rise to the alleged violation. Should you have any additional questions with regards to this matter, I may be reached at (202) 558.3452. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Clut S. Berke

Enclosures

MUR 6386 Response

Attachment C

REPORT OF RECEIPTS

FEC FORM 3		SBURSEM Authorized Commi			Office Use Only
1. NAME OF COMMITTEE (in	USE FEC MAIL (III) OR TYPE OR F		riple:11 typing, type the lines		
Steve Fincher for	and street) [PO Box 1]				
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2. FEC IDENTIFIC	ATYON NUMBER 🔻	CITY A		STATEA	ZIP CODE A STATE V DISTRICT
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July 19	, ,	Election on	Election Report for Primary (12P) Convention (12G) 0 8 T-Election Report for General (30G)	General (in the TN State of
5. Covering Period	07 01	2010	through	07 16	2010
I certify that I have so Type or Print Name	remined this Report and to the	e best of my knowledge s Patterson	and boilef it is trut	o, correct and complete.	
Signature of Treasur	Planton laufte Fladine	Phyllis Patterson	subject the person (Date 07	23 2010 e penalties of 2 U.S.C 437g.
Office Use Only					FEC FORM 3 (Revised 02/2003)

Image# 10931072549

	SCHEDULE A (FEC Form 3) TEMIZED RECEIPTS	Use separate schedule for each category of the Detailed Susanzry Page	
	NAME OF COMMITTEE (in Full)		12 X 13a 13b 14 15 y person for the purpose of soliciting contributions ities to solicit contributions from such committee.
A.	Steve Fincher for Congress Full Nemer(Last, First, Middle Initial) Steve Fincher Melling Address PO Box 11158 City	State Zip Code	Date of Receipt 07 08 2010 Transaction ID: 00707.G2341
	Jackson FEC ID number of contributing federal political committee. Name of Employer	TN 38308-0119 C H0TN08246 Occupation	Amount of Each Receipt this Period 250000.00 Loans Made/Guaranteed by Cand.
	Receipt For: 2010 X Primery ☐ General Other (specify) ♥	Election Cycle-to-Date ▼ 250000.0	NOTE: DEDONNAL FLINDS

SUBTOTAL of Receipts This Page (optional)	.	250000.00
TOTAL This Period (last page this line number only)		250000.00

Image# 10931072562

SCHEDULE C (FEC Form 3)	PAGE 27/27
LOANS	Use separate schedule(s) for each category of the Detailed Suramary Page FOR LINE NUMBER: (check only one) X 13a
NAME OF COMMITTEE (in Full) Steve Fincher for Congress	Transaction ID: LS00707.C2341
LOARI SOURCE Full Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) Steve Fincher - [PERSONAL FUNDS]	Section: X Primary General
Mailirig Address PO Box 11153	☐ Other (specify) ▼
City Jackson State TN ZIP	Code 38305-0119
Original Amount of Loan Cumulative Paymen	t To Date Balance Outstanding at Close of This Period
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TERMS Date Incurred Date Due	Interest Rate Secured:
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Mailing Address	Occupation
City State ZIP Code	Amount Guaranteed Cutstanding:
Full Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)	Name of Employer
Mailing Address	Occupation
City State ZIP Code	Amount Guaranteed Outstanding:
Full Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)	Name of Employer
Mailing Address	Occupation
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Full Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)	Name of Employer
Mailing Address	Occupation
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TOTALS This Period (lest page in this line only)	
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MUR 6386 Response

Attachment E

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Tre Hernett Secretary of State



State of Tennesce Department of State ·

Uniform Commercial Code 312 Ross L. Paris Avenus 6th Fl. Win.R. Snodgrass Tower Nasisville, Tennessee 37243 (615) 741-3276

PATE: 01/05/10

-

GATRE BANKING AND TRUST CO P O BOX 10 GATRO, THE 38057

RE: UCC1 Filing Ms. 319900540 -

PERSON INFORMATION .

STEPHEN & LYME FINCHER PARKE 12067 JOHNSON GROVE ROAD HALLS, TH 38040

SUCCESSO MARCY TRACORDESTON

CATES BANKING AND TRUST CO P O BOX 10 GATES, TH 38037

MATURITY DOCT: 01/05/15

************* \$600,000.00

This acknowledges the filing of the attached DCCI document. Please review the above data to ensure database information corresponds with information on the submitted UCC form. In the event a discrepancy is faund, please note the error and return the entire package to our office.

If we may we of any further essection to you, plants emiliant us at (615) 741-3276.

Enclosures:

Original Documents

SYMPHE INCOMESTOR:

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\$25.0E

\$687.70

Please retain for fee and tax purposes

The Commission of State is an equal experiency, against about a different or differ against

32953

DEED OF TRUST

STATE OF TENNESSEE COUNTY OF ... CROCKETT

Know All Mes By These Presents:

THAT WE, STEPHEN L. PINCHER and wife, LYNN A. PINCHER,

for the purposes hereinafter set out do hereby bargain, sell, transfer and convey unto

ROBERT D. MEDIZON OF LARRESPEALE COMMITS, IN

Tilistee, his successors in

trust and assigns the following described property:

Lying situated and being in the 10th Civil District of Crockett County, Tennessee, and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at a point in the south line of Frog Jump Road, also known as Johnson Grove Road (25 feet from the centerline), said point being the northeast corner of the Johnny H. Mayfield and wife, Lama D. Neyfield, property resorted in Deed Book 26. Engs 27; themse with this senth line of said Prog Jump Road the following calls; south 88 degrees 17 minutes 48 seconds east, 402.45 fast; themse along a curve to the right having a radius of 2975.00 fast, a dalta angle of 10 degrees 28 minutes 21 seconds east, a chord direction of south 75 degrees 27 minutes 04 seconds east, a chord length of 543.02 feet and an arc length of 543.78 feet; thence south 71 degrees 23 minutes 52 seconds east, 349.87 feet to a set iron pin, said iron pin being the northwest corner of the trans herein discribed Bill the POHEST (P. BESLETHING; themse smath 71 degrees 23 minutes MD seconds east with this seath line of said know Jump Bood, 282.32 feet in a set iron pin; these creating new lines through the Japkie L. Flocker and wise, humine G. Fincher property recorded in Dand Book 106, Page 162, Tract No. 1 the following calls: newth 18 degrees 36 minutes 09 seconds west, 375.00 feet to a set iron pin; thence north 18 degrees 36 minutes 10 seconds east, 375.00 feet to the point of beginning and containing 87,119.31 square feet, or 2.00 acres of land as surveyed by Surveying Services, Inc., R.L.S. \$1420, 6ated January 11, 2002.

The share described property is subject to all stillity easements and all rights-of-ver for Frag Sump Boad.

Being designated as a portion of Map 59, Parcels 3 and 4, in accordance with the Tax Assessor's Office of Crockett County, Tennessee.

Being the same property conveyed to Stephen L. Fincher and wife, Lynn A. Fincher, by deed of Jackie L. Fincher and wife, Bonnie G. Fincher, of resemble in Deid Book [2], Page 78%-04, in the Register's Office of Cressett Louety, Forensess.

MAXIMEN PRINCIPAL INDESTIGNMENT FOR THUNDSEE RECORDING TAX TUMPOSIAL IS \$300,000.00.

Single of Telements, CONSETT COLUMN Profit of COLUMN PROFIT AND THE STATE OF THE ST

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said above described property together with any and all lands, tenements heroditatuenes, seasoments, nikuestis, improvements, appuromitteus and privileges, which also belong to the saud imment, his resonance in trast and miligat fearway in this simple.

WE COVENANT THAT WE are lawfully seized and possessed of the said property herein conveyed; that we have a good and lawful right to sail and against that same; that the saints is meansurable and EXCEPT as heard; expressly ent out and described; and that we will warment and forever defend the little to the said property unto the said busine, his successure to trust and easigns against the lambul claims

AND L LYNN A, FINDER, wife of the above named grantor, STEPHEN L. FINCHER,

in this instrument for the express purpose of waiving, releasing, transferring and conveying all my rights of every kind and nature which I may have in and to the property herein conveyed and especially all of my rights of hermanimis extil agains to be beautiful by all of the transmit this instruments.

FOGSELISION of the said property hards conveyed to to remain in the grantors will default in the terms and provisions have at thich time or in thick event we agree to become the tenants at will of the Trustee and to give immediate possession of the said property upon demand, without any notice, and if we shall full, rafuse, or be unable to do so, then the trustee, and/or purchaser at said foreclosure sale may institute and prosecute to a successful conclusion and action of unlawful detainer systems us before any source of competent justification of said county and state for presention of said property and may supervix and successful property and may supervix and successful property lesson consequent.

BUT THIS IS A DEED OF TRUST and is given for the following purposes:

To secure the appropri of our indubtalenes as fellows:

Note of even date herewith in the amount of \$200,500.00 des one (1) year from date, made by Stephen L. Fincher and wife, Lynn A. Fincher, payable to the order of ourselves and by us this date endorsed and negotiated to a holder in due course.

ADDITIONAL LOANS AND INDEBTEDNESS

TRINCIPLE INVESTIBLINESS FOR TERMESSEE RECORDING TAX PURPOSES IS \$ *****YYYAY**. Subject only to the limitation of amount above set out, this deed of trust shall secure all indebtedness; both direct and indirect, by emiliatement and athermies, which we or any of us shall one said Bank during the period set out above, together with all renewals and extensions of the same. If the Bank requires and receives emiliately authorizing its readilities in least emiliar country, seen statutely small be unusulative to the amounts and like of this seed of trust.

If we pay the said indefinedness hereby meaned and secretly interest fluctors together with all items and extensions thereof as the same small become due and payable and shall otherwise carry the turns and presidents of this finitum of finit into trust shall be used have no effect. BUT IP hereby samutal, the Zimites in antiprised to take baserdistip generation of all printed conveyed herein and the Trustee to Estheriogic to sell and dispuse of any personal property conveyed herein, including crops and/or livestock, for the best cash price obtainable, with or without notice at public or private sale crops and/or livestock, for the best cash price obtainable, with or without house at public of privace take as he choses being wis used Twisten to Change!! and applicated after submitting the series, for the sea provided by less to the series and expense consumed begins of public help at she statement in the series of the series and the constant the contraction of the series and the contraction of the series to the publicate and select in the series of seathy of seasons and improduce and of housestend, and all some statement of every kind and returns, such that statement right of series and entered to the statement of series of seathy expenses, such that statement right of series and entered to the statement of series of serie